

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 19-23 and 25-36 are in the case.

The Examiner states that all previous objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101, 112 and prior art rejections have been withdrawn. However, he now makes a new rejection of the claims i.e., Claims 19-23 and 25-36, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt et al. in view of Usami.

It is submitted that this rejection equally fails for the following reason.

This application filed in the United States on June 13, 2001 has an effective date of July 1, 1999 by virtue of it being a PCT application filed July 3, 2000 based on French patent application no. 9908474 filed July 1, 1999 whose priority is being claimed. To perfect such claim of priority, a certified translation of the priority document is submitted herewith. The effective date of this application thus being July 1, 1999, it antedates the effective date of October 7, 1999 of Hunt et al., the primary reference relied upon by the Examiner, and obviates the rejection of the Examiner as above set forth. Reliance of Usami, by itself, clearly is insufficient basis for the rejection of the claims.

The above is consistent with the discussion with the Examiner, he indicating that the action taken herewith would obviate the rejection.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is requested.

It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and which is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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